

## The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University

### Ohio State Engineer

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# OUR DEAN EMERITUS

By JOHN M. WEED

IF THERE had not been a depression in the eighteen-nineties, and if an ambitious young professor of mechanical engineering hadn't got out into industry before the World War, and if that same professor hadn't agreed eight years later to return to the University as dean, you mightn't be reading this. (Sort of a "for want of a nail the battle was lost" isn't it?) But it's the truth. A series of circumstances brought Dean Hitchcock to us.

Young Embury Hitchcock, when he was duly turned out by Cornell in 1890 with an M.E. degree, had his career all planned—when better ships were built by the Cramp Company of Baltimore he would build them. But there was a depression and Cramp couldn't use his services. Very well, then, he'd help build Corliss engines. And he did. But that, too, petered out. And so, at Christmas, 1892, he came to Ohio State to assist Professor Robinson in the Mechanical Engineering Department, for a short time only (so he thought) and he became a professor himself and remained to teach here for nearly twenty years. Such a celebrity as Charles F. Kettering was in his classes. So was E. G. Bailey of meter fame, who finally got his old professor into business as vice-president of the Bailey Meter Company. (But that was later, in 1919.) Mr. Hitchcock's students of those days show what they thought of him by coming back to hobnob with him and by insisting that he come to visit them.

What young Professor Hitchcock's boss thought of him is set forth in a bronze tablet on a boiler in Robinson Laboratory. It reads:

*Presented to*

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

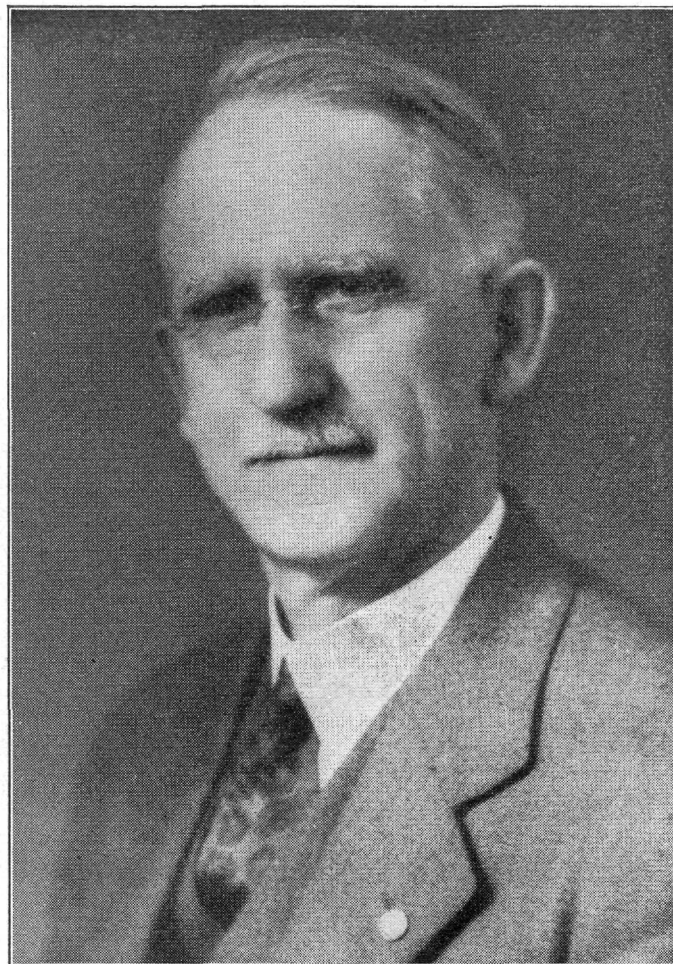
BY STILLMAN W. ROBINSON, PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF MECHANICAL  
ENGINEERING, IN APPRECIATION OF THE WORK OF PROFESSOR  
E. A. HITCHCOCK IN EXPERIMENTAL ENGINEERING.

JANUARY, 1900

Professor Hitchcock and his students tested about all the engines around Columbus. They weren't content with stationary ones, but rigged up their apparatus on the cow-catchers of freight and passenger locomotives chuffing out to the north—the first heat balances run on train engines in service. This work was praised here and abroad. It was quite a feather in a young professor's cap.

In 1920, when the College of Engineering was looking for a dean, other faculty members were found to hold sentiment like those of Professor Robinson. They picked Embury Hitchcock. He was willing, and he served as dean for sixteen years. Now, as dean emeritus, he is in a position to render many more years of service to the University.

What the students think of the dean is every whit as important as the opinion of the faculty—or more so. They put it in writing—appropriately embellished—at the



*Courtesy Cleveland Engineering*

Engineers' Day festivities of 1926 when they gave him a diploma that reads:

ENGINEERS' COUNCIL

The Ohio State University

*This is to Certify that*

EMBURY A. HITCHCOCK, M.E.

Dean of the College of Engineering

The Ohio State University

*Is Hereby Presented with the Degree of*  
HUMAN ENGINEER

"Having proved himself worthy of this distinction by his loyal friendship for, and genuine interest in, his students and college, and by his unceasing efforts to instill into the minds of his students those high ideals so necessary to human engineering.

"Authorized this 2nd day of May, 1926, by the Engineers' Council of the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, in compliance with the wishes of the entire engineering student body."